[17th September 1947

Pension to peons.

* 18 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to answer to question No. 104 answered on 11th March 1947 and the answer to the supplementary question on the same, will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the concession of pension equal to half the average emoluments of the peons which has come into effect from 1st January 1946 will be extended to those who retired prior to 1st January 1946?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Government consider that the orders sanctioning the concession of pension based on half the average emoluments in the case of peons cannot be given with retrospective effect from any date prior to 1st January 1946."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to reconsider his decision as the number of persons who will be affected will be small and the demands on the Treasury will be only negligible as most of them are old persons? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Even as it is, it is going to cost five lakhs to Government and so there is no point for reconsideration."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know why this class of Government servants alone should be penalised simply because they retired before 1st January 1946? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Orders were passed in April 1946 and though usually orders take effect from the date of issue of such orders, in this case they were given effect to from 1st January 1946."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Cannot the Hon. Minister extend it still further so as to make the order applicable to all those who retired before 1st January 1946? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not usual to give retrospective effect to these orders."

Scheme for the construction of houses for Government employees.

* 19 *Q.*—SRI P. VIRABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to construct houses for the Government employees;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, in what stage the scheme is; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative whether the Government propose to devise a scheme for the purpose?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) There is a proposal for construction of 164 houses for the Government servants at Todhunternagar. The proposals

are being considered for introduction during the financial year 1948–49. There is also another proposal for the construction of 350 houses for Government servants on the site to the south of the west end of Sterling Road, Nungambakkam. Plans and estimates have been called for from the Chief Engineer (General, Buildings and Defence) in respect of this proposal. Apart from these, a house construction society has been started in the City for the construction of houses for middle class people. Government servants also can become members of this society. As regards the mufassal, it is proposed to start co-operative societies wherever there is shortage of housing accommodation. As a matter of fact, some societies have already been started. The Government have directed the constitution of committees in each municipality and in major panchayat areas where there is shortage of housing accommodation to select sites for the formation of co-operative societies. A Provincial Committee has also been constituted to examine and suggest suitable measures to solve the housing problem.

"(c) The question does not arise."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, what category of Government servants are entitled to houses which are under construction?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I think it depends on the number of houses available after construction."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is a scheme under consideration of the Government for providing accommodation to industrial workers?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" We are awaiting with interest the report of the Housing Committee which we hope will deal with this aspect of the problem."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether there is a scheme for building houses for the employees of the Government Press and whether the proposals have since been delayed?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The larger includes the less."

Industrial plants for the manufacture of acids.

* 20 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any industrial plants in the Province manufacturing different acids;

(*b*) what are the needs of the acids for industrial purposes;

(*c*) whether there are plants in the Province for the preparation of (1) acetic, (2) chloro-sulphuric, (3) chromic, (4) hydrochloric, (5) oxalic and (6) sulphuric acids; and if so, what the capacity of those plants is;